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Rural District Council of Maidstone

*Kent.*

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Annual Report for the Year  
1957

ON

THE HEALTH OF THE  
MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

F. H. M. DUMMER,

M.B., Ch.B., C.P.H., D.P.H.



*B*  
*and*



MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1957


ON

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Maidstone Rural District Council

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Public Health Committee

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Chairman

Colonel Sir George W. Heron, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O.,

Members

Mr. H.W. Busbridge  
Mr. R.A. Coates  
Mr. J. Day  
Mr. W. Day  
Mr. F.W. Grout  
Mrs. N.D. Herbert  
Major F.D. Thomas

Major De S.H. Lewis-Barned, M.C.  
Mr. W. Moore  
Mr. P. Morphett  
Major E.W. Tassell, M.C., T.D.  
Mr. W. Tipples  
Mr. J.A. Worley.

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Public Health Officers of the Rural District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH: F.H.M. Dummer, M.B., Ch.B., C.P.H.  
D.P.H., (appointed 1.1.58)

P. Jacob Gaffikin, M.C., T.D., M.D.,  
B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,  
(retired 31.12.57)

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR:

K.T. Jolley, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.  
A.M.I.P.H.E.,  
Public Health Inspectors'  
Certificate,  
Certificate of Inspector of Meat  
& Other Foods.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR:

G.W. White, M.S.I.A.  
Public Health Inspectors'  
Certificate,  
Certificate of Inspector of Meat  
& Other Foods,  
Smoke Inspectors' Certificate.

CLERK TO DEPARTMENT:

Miss H. Wood.



MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT

To:- The Chairman and Members of the Maidstone Rural  
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the Honour to present the Annual Report for 1957.

This Report covers the work which was carried out under the supervision of my predecessor, Dr. P.J. Gaffikin, who retired on 31st December 1957. I have therefore retained in the Report the general comments which appeared in 1956 and which are still relevant.

The main feature disturbing the otherwise good health record of the district in 1957 was the poliomyelitis outbreak in which there were 14 notified cases, 10 being of the paralytic variety. The first essential in the prevention of this disease is to obtain as wide a field as possible of vaccinated persons, and I would urge all parents to ensure that children are registered for vaccination under the scheme being operated by Kent County Council. In the light of present knowledge, only by this means can we reasonably expect to make poliomyelitis a thing of the past, or at the very least so to reduce drastically its effects that it no longer becomes the tragic event of today.

I am very grateful for the assistance and encouragement I have received from the Members since taking up my appointment on 1st January 1958. I would also like to record my appreciation of the services of your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. K.T. Jolley, and of the other Officers of the Council with whom my work brings me in contact.

I have the Honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F.H.M. DUMMER

Medical Officer of Health.

30th June, 1958







## Section "A"

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) .. .. .	34,487
Estimated resident population 1957 .. .. .	18,870
Number of inhabited houses, (according to rate books at end of 1957) .. .. .	6,287
Rateable value .. .. .	£190,876
Sum represented by a penny rate .. .. .	£771.3.4d.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate .. .. .	271	129	142
Illegitimate .. .. .	22	13	9
Total -	293	142	151

Birth rate, per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. .. .	Crude	15.52
	Corrected	16.29
Still Births .. .. .		7
Rate per 1,000 births (live and still) .. .. .		23.33

### Deaths

<u>Deaths from all causes</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	337	198	139
Death rate per 1,000 population	..	.. Crude	17.85
		Corrected	9.45
Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings of Registrar-General's short list 30, - Pregnancy, Childbirth, abortion)			
Rate per 1,000 total births	..	..	.. NIL
<u>Death rate of infants under 1 year of age.</u>			
All infants, per 1,000 live births	..	..	13.65
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 live births	..	..	10.23
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 live births			3.4
Deaths from measles (all ages)	..	..	.. NIL
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	.. 55
Cancer death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	..	..	.. 2.91
Deaths from whooping-cough (all ages)	..	..	.. NIL
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)	..	..	.. NIL



## Section "B"

### General Provision of Health Services in the Area

The general health services are provided by a number of agencies but it would appear to be at least possible that some of the responsibility which had been entrusted to other agencies will return in some degree to the elected members of such bodies as Borough, Urban District and Rural District Councils. Clinical care and hospital treatment are the responsibility of the National Health Service; laboratory investigation and research are entrusted to the laboratory organisation of the N.H.S. and the Medical Research Council. The school medical service, the maternity and child welfare services and other public health activities have of recent years become entirely the responsibility of the County Councils, while the environmental aspects of public health have remained in the care of the local Authorities, such as the Rural District and Urban District Councils, and between all the other agencies, the local Authorities and their officers form the connecting link and provide the essential liason.

These Authorities have the inestimable advantages of local knowledge, local pride and enthusiasm and of being visible and approachable, which no centralised or remote Authority can possess. There would seem to be some possibility that a return of responsibility for some of the essential services, or at least a degree of delegation of functions to the smaller Local Authorities is possible and I am convinced that a return to Local Government which is essentially local is most desirable.





## Section "C"

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supplies. In previous Reports the Water Companies which serve the Rural District have been enumerated. During 1957, the supplies have been adequate of a high standard of bacteriological and chemical purity. The water supplied in the area is hard, but there is not evidence of plumbo-solvent action. All the parishes in the Maidstone Rural District now have a water supply available from the mains and these supplies are of excellent quality but in the cases where, by reason of contours or on account of the expense involved in taking the mains to isolated properties, it is not practicable to bring the main water supply, some areas are still dependent on wells and springs, the position is not entirely satisfactory, for these springs and wells cannot be relied on to give a completely safe supply. The amount of water required for both domestic and industrial use is steadily increasing and a re-grouping and combination of the water undertakings is becoming a necessity throughout the County.

Scavenging. In the Maidstone Rural District, this service is in the care of the Surveyor and regular collections are made. This service has been difficult to maintain with the shortage of labour and the necessary vehicles, but I must comment on the failings of the community in regard to untidiness and wastefulness. There is far too much litter and rubbish disfiguring our countryside, partly due to the inhabitants and their thoughtless habits, and partly to the laziness and lack of consideration shown by the town dwellers who leave their trail of litter to show where they have passed, and far too much wastefulness, both of material which could be salvaged or burnt by the householder and of money which has to be expended in collecting and disposing of unnecessary accumulations. The citizens could reduce the cost of scavenging and as a result save the rate cost of disposal, by helping to reduce the quantity of rubbish which has to be collected.

### Drainage and Sewerage

During the year extensions and improvements of disposal works were made, and further re-construction and improvements of existing works are contemplated, but the inception of the combined scheme for Teston, Watlingbury and Nettlestead in conjunction with Malling Rural District Council is still delayed.

This provision is an urgent necessity and the fact that the river Medway is being polluted cannot be viewed with any complacency.

Most of the houses in the Rural District are equipped with water closets, discharging into cess-pits, or with pail closets, the contents of the pail closets are usually disposed of by the occupiers and many gardens are small and are becoming choked with this night-soil. The emptying of cess-pits are the disposal of the contents are



controlled by the Surveyor; the expense is heavy and the cost increases every year, but the point which I would stress is that the methods of disposing of sewage sludge or untreated sewage in this country, - generally by dumping it or by turning it into the sea, - are grossly wasteful. The population of the country and of the whole world is rising and this population needs to be fed; we cannot afford to be wasteful of this nitrogenous material, which should be fertilising the waste places of the earth.

Rivers and Streams. Pollution of the rivers and streams in the area certainly exists and this fouling of our rivers is a reproach to the community and a potential danger to the health of the citizens.

Existing sewage disposal works are overloaded and additional provision is necessary but I urge that the policy should be to have such works as large as needful and as few in number as can be arranged, even if joint action by two or more Authorities is involved rather than that there should be multiplication of small works, difficult to maintain and supervise, wasteful to establish and no addition to the beauty of the landscape.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. Your Chief Public Health Inspector has furnished the following details of the work of his Department during 1957. Slum Clearance activities have increased the number of housing inspections required. One of the pressing parts of the Public Health Inspectors' work is in connection with Food Hygiene and considerable additional work will be involved in securing compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations 1956 and in particular with the supervision of cafes, restaurants and eating places.





## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

### HOUSING

Number of houses surveyed	..	..	..	..	374
Number of revisits to houses	..	..	..	..	1,409
Number of drains inspected	..	..	..	..	142
Number of revisits to drains	..	..	..	..	537
Visits re. Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	5
Number of visits made under the Housing Acts	..				89

### FOOD AND WATER

Number of Slaughterhouse and meat inspections..					399
Number of visits re. Water Supplies..	..	..			45
Number of visits re. Milk and Dairies	..	..			37
Number of visits re. Food and Drugs Act	..	..			509

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Number of visits re. Infectious Disease	..	..			95
---	----	----	--	--	----

### GENERAL

Accummulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Keeping of Animals	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
House vans and Camping Sites	..	..	..	..	..	..	389
Hop Pickers' Camps	..	..	..	..	..	..	230
Factories Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	99
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	438
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	..	..	433
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	359

### Comparison of Summary Figures with 1956

There has been an increase of Housing inspections of 654, this increase is mainly in revisits following up action taken by the Council on Slum Clearance properties.

Inspections of premises under the Food and Drugs Act have increased considerably over the figures for 1956. Full implement of the Food Hygiene Regulations and the new Food and Drugs Act 1955 were the cause of this increase. Most of the shops and food premises being visited during the year.



Owing to the severe outbreak of Poliomyelitis in the district, and the considerable rise in notified cases of Scarlet Fever, the number of visits following notified infectious diseases increased by over 80.

Nearly one hundred additional inspections were also made on house vans and camping sites. The inclusion of two seasonal sites, and much more detailed routine inspection of existing permanent camping sites has caused this increase.

Shops Act inspections were nearly doubled on 1956 figures, this increase being automatic with the additional number of inspections of food premises, most of which are also shops. Rodent Control figures have also increased because of these additional visits to food premises.

The total number of inspections carried out by the Public Health Department during 1956 was 4,192; in 1957 this figure was increased to 5,635 - an increase of 1,443. During 1956 following the retirement of Mr. Sedgwick and for some weeks before this date, there was only one inspector in the Department, Mr. White being appointed in June. Therefore the figures for that year were low. Also far more work was carried out in the district, caused by increased legislation during recent months. This increase in inspections is bound to continue into 1958, as such additional legislation as the Rent Act 1957, and the Clean Air Act 1957 add to the responsibility and duties of the Public Health Inspectors.



## GENERAL STATISTICS

### HOUSING

Informal notices served .. .. .	94
Statutory notices served .. .. .	10
Informal notices completed .. .. .	73

### HOUSING DEFECTS DEALT WITH BY INFORMAL NOTICES

Walls and ceilings repaired .. .. .	15
Dampness remedied .. .. .	12
External rendering .. .. .	1
Repair defective windows and doors .. .. .	8
Fillets to chimney stacks repaired .. .. .	1
Chimney stacks repaired .. .. .	1
General repairs to roof .. .. .	5
Provision of permanent ventilation .. .. .	2
Provision of piped water .. .. .	0
Fire Precaution Certificate .. .. .	5
Cooking facilities repaired .. .. .	3
Decoration.. .. .	3
Repair or replacement of floors .. .. .	5
Repair or replacement of paving .. .. .	1

### DRAINAGE

Overflowing cesspools reported.. .. .	13
Repairs to cesspools.. .. .	1
Replacement of guttering .. .. .	3
Repairs to rain water down pipes .. .. .	3
Insanitary condition of closets .. .. .	4
Defective drains .. .. .	1
Repairs to broken waste pipes .. .. .	3
Soakaways repaired .. .. .	2
Provision of sinks .. .. .	1
Provision of closets.. .. .	1
Provision of new waste pipes or gulleys .. .. .	3
Repairs to inspection chambers.. .. .	3





### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits made by inspectors.. .. 95

Reports to M.O.H. on cases of infectious disease:-

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	40
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	12
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	2
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	1
Para Typhoid	..	..	..	..	1

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Number of licenced Slaughterhouses .. .. 5

Number of premises cleansed during the year .. 5

### MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES

Moveable dwellings .. .. 3

Noise nuisance .. .. 1

Accumulations .. .. 5

Provision of dustbins .. .. 4

Hop pickers' camps .. .. 5



INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED UNDER THE SHOPS ACTS, AND  
FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Provision of hot water supply .. .. .	17
Provision of cold water supply.. .. .	2
Provision of sinks .. .. .	6
Provision of wash hand basins .. .. .	4
Provision of refrigerators .. .. .	5
Provision of food storage bins.. .. .	1
Provision of first aid kits .. .. .	1
Cleansing of food preparation rooms.. .. .	6
Provision of soap, towels, etc. .. .. .	3
Provision of ventilation .. .. .	1
Provision of notices.. .. .	3
Provision of closets.. .. .	3
Provision of lighting .. .. .	1
Provision of drainage .. .. .	3

This gives some indication of the Statutory and informal action which was required under the Public Health Acts, the Housing Acts, the Slaughter of Animals Act, Food Regulations, Food and Drugs Act, and the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Owing to the considerable number of intimation notices which had to be served on shop-keepers and occupiers of food preparation premises, a separate section has been included indicating contraventions of the regulations which required to be remedied.

The number of informal notices has increased by 26 since 1956, but the number of notices completed has also increased by a similar amount.

During 1957 it was found necessary to serve 10 Statutory notices, three under the Public Health Act, and seven under the Housing Act 1936, Section 9.



## FACTORIES AND WORK PLACES

Factories with mechanical power	..	..	..	66
Factories without mechanical power	..	..	..	9
Other premises	..	..	..	2
Inspections of Factories with mechanical power				87
Inspections of Factories without mechanical power..	..	..	..	12
Inspections of other premises	..	..	..	0
Factories with mechanical power - notices served				13
Factories with mechanical power - notices completed	..	..	..	11
Factories without mechanical power - notices served	..	..	..	2
Factories without mechanical power - notices completed	..	..	..	2

There have been an increased number of inspections of factories during 1957, and it was not found necessary in any case to serve statutory notices for contraventions of the Factories Act. Of the fifteen notices served on premises of this kind, most were for works to comply with the regulations for the issue of certificates of means of escape in case of fire.

Factories with mechanical power mainly come under the jurisdiction of the Factories Inspector, except for the issue of the certificates already mentioned and for sanitary accommodation. During the year every factory was inspected at least once, and apart from verbal notices to cleanse on several occasions, sanitary accommodation was satisfactory.

Factories without mechanical power come under the full control of the Council except for safety measures, which are practically negligible in factories of this type. There are nine such premises within the district, and all were inspected during the year and found satisfactory.





Section "D"

HOUSING

The following information regarding housing in the Rural District is set out in the form asked for by the Ministry of Health.

I	1(a)	Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects, (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .	374
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose .. .. .	1,783
	2(a)	Number of dwelling-houses, (included under sub-section 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932 ..	0
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose .. .. .	0
	3(a)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	25
	4(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	57
II		Remedy of defects during the year, without the service of formal notice.	
	1(a)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority.. .. .	42
III		Action under Statutory Powers during the year	
	A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	1.	Number of dwelling-houses in which notices were served requiring repairs.. .. .	7
	2.	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices.	
		a. By owners .. .. .	0
		b. By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	7
	B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
	1.	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	3





2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices .. .. .

a. By owners .. .. . 0  
 b. By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. . 3

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made .. .. 12

2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders .. .. 5

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. . 0

2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.. .. . 0

IV Housing Act, 1936. Part 4 Overcrowding.

A(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. . 1

(2) Number of families dwelling therein .. 2

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein.. .. 6

B(1) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.. .. . 1

C(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. . 1

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 11

D. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .. .. 1



### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Number of applications approved in 1957 .. ..	15
Number of applications not approved.. ..	5
Number of houses involved in approved applications .. .. .	26
Amount of grants approved.. .. .	£5,230
Number of improvements completed in 1957.. ..	16

Although the number of applications approved in 1957 shows an increase of five over 1956, the number disapproved has been reduced by ten. The overall number of houses involved were slightly more, and the amount of grants approved was £600 less. This indicates that the Council considered a greater number of improvement grants during the year, but on the whole the types of schemes considered were of a more simple nature and therefore less expensive. I am pleased the Council have decided to consider these applications in light of reduced capital expenditure on other housing schemes, as I do feel that with the considerable reduction in provision of Council house accommodation, the necessity for improvement grants is even greater.

Improvement applications of this type assist in raising the standard of a great number of properties in your district and when the Council consider there are over two thousand sub-standard premises still in existence, it can be seen that quite a number of cottages are still far below legal requirements and modern day standards.



## CAMPING SITES AND CARAVANS

<u>Site</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Maximum No. of caravans</u>
Enterprise Camping Site, Barming.	Mr. Paine	25
Hartridge Farm Site, East Farleigh.	Mr. Chambers	20
The Retreat, Nettlestead.	Mrs. P. Lamb	25

### Caravan Sites for Seasonal Use only

Medway Wharf Site, Nettlestead.	Mr. Ashe	10
Twyford Boat Yard Site, Yalding.	Mr. Wickham	16

### Summary of data

Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	389
Number of licenced sites	..	..	..	..	5
Number of licenced caravans	..	..	..	..	5
Applications for licence	..	..	..	..	2
Applications for licence refused	..	..	..	..	0

There has been no increase in the number of permanent and seasonal camps in the district except for the licencing of two individual caravans on sites which have been approved by Planning. It has been the Council's policy in the past where application is received from an individual for licencing purposes under the appropriate section of the Public Health Act, to licence the caravan rather than the site. This is a sound policy in so much that once a caravan site is licenced, that licence cannot be revoked or withdrawn. Under the appropriate section of the Act, a caravan licence can be for a stipulated period, and at the end of that period can be withdrawn and the caravan removed.

During the year the number of inspections have increased from 292 in 1956 to 389 in 1957. A great number of these inspections were due to the Council's consideration of taking statutory action against the owner of Twyford Boat Yard Camping Site, because conditions on the camp were not up to the requirements of the Public Health Act, 1936. When statutory action is contemplated by the Council, it must be proved to the Court that the camp was occupied for 42 consecutive days. Not only was Twyford Boat Yard Camping Site considered for statutory action, but also an unlicenced site owned Mr. Beaney in Heath Road, Hunton, which did warrant the







considerable increase in the number of inspections.

The district on the whole is still badly in need of caravan sites. It is estimated that at least 50 - 100 caravans are stationed on unlicensed sites throughout the district, especially during the fruit and vegetable lifting season. There is a considerable influx of caravans during the summer, but apart from this regular flow of such vehicles, there are a number of permanent caravans stationed on sites which are not licensed and have inadequate water supply, and improper sanitary accommodation. A scheme for a Council owned site was suggested but refused.



### HOP PICKERS' CAMPS

Total number of Hop pickers' camps in use	..	80
Number of huts in use (estimated)	.. ..	3,750
Estimated number of pickers	.. .. .	15,000
Number of inspections	.. .. .	230

The number of camps in use during the season was approximately the same as in 1956. It did appear, during inspections, that although the same number of camps were in use, they were not fully occupied as in previous years. There has been a steady growth of machinery for hop picking, mainly due I feel, to the farmers inability to attract sufficient pickers. It is estimated that over the last five years the number of pickers has been halved from thirty thousand to fifteen thousand. Every camp in the district was inspected at least twice during the season and once before the camps became occupied.

According to the Byelaws, the Local Authority should be informed some weeks in advance by the owners of such camps, that they will be occupied. Of the eighty camps occupied this year, only three such notifications were received. This meant that every camp in the district had to be inspected before the season, in case they were to be occupied during the hop picking season.

Before the 1958 season, I have the Council's approval to send a copy of the Byelaws to every farmer, drawing attention to the clause requiring notification. This may relieve your inspectors of the necessity to inspect camps which will not be used.

During the season it was not found necessary to serve any statutory notices, and the few intimation and verbal notices given during the season were rapidly attended to. I do feel that the standard of the camps in this district, apart from one or two obvious exceptions, has considerably lowered over the past years, mainly because the camps are not fully occupied. The large number of hutments which fall below the standard for occupation are the obvious ones to be left unoccupied.



Section "E"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Number of Food Premises in the District

Cafes and Restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	14
Food Shops (excluding butchers)	..	..	..	..	..	93
Butchers' shops..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Licensed premises	..	..	..	..	..	<u>60</u>
				Total	-	<u>183</u>

Number of visits and inspections

Cafes and Restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	57
Food shops (excluding butchers)	..	..	..	..	..	288
Butchers' shops..	..	..	..	..	..	59
Licensed premises	..	..	..	..	..	<u>29</u>
				Total	-	<u>433</u>

A comparison of the number of food premises within the district with the 1956 figures, indicates that there has been a reduction of four; one cafe, one food shop, one butchers shop, and one licensed premises. The number of inspections have increased considerably from 264 to 433 in 1957. This was mainly due to the Public Health Department concern regarding the Food Hygiene Regulations and the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

A survey has been made of most food premises within the district and a considerable number of intimations served on the owners for items not complying with the regulations. The main one being the provision of a constant hot water supply. The co-operation with food shopkeepers in the district is very close, and we did not often find it necessary to apply for statutory action, as intimation and persuasion proved sufficient except for two occasions.

On the whole the standard of the food shops in your district is very high. We have on two occasions made the list of defects so expensive that the shopkeepers concerned sold the premises, which were subsequently demolished. One was a butcher's shop in Teston, and the other a general store at East Farleigh. In both cases the premises were totally unsatisfactory for use in connection with food.





## MILK SUPPLIES

### Examination of Milk Samples (Bacteriological)

<u>Grade</u>	<u>No. of samples examined</u>	<u>No. found unsatisfactory</u>
Sterilised	24	0
Tuberculin Tested	3	1
Pasteurised	17	0
Undesignated	0	0
	<hr/> 44	<hr/> 1

### Dairies and Milk Shops

Details of registration and licences are given below:-

Dairies registered.. ..	16
Retailers (excluding dairies)	20

### Dealers Licences

Sterilised milk .. ..	30
Pasteurised milk .. ..	12
Tuberculin tested milk .. ..	14

### Supplementary Licences

Sterilised milk .. ..	3
Pasteurised milk .. ..	5
Tuberculin tested milk .. ..	3

The number of samples taken during the year were increased from 20 to 44. As has been our aim in the past, every supplier in the district was sampled at least once. Only one sample of Tuberculin Tested milk was found unsatisfactory, but a subsequent sample of the supply proved the cause for dissatisfaction was temporary.

There has been a slight increase in the number of licences issued, as one or two general stores have been approved for the sale of milk, mainly for hop pickers purposes.



MEAT INSPECTION

<u>Slaughterhouse</u>	<u>Carcases</u>	<u>Per cent.</u>
Ballard .. ..	623	43.0
Boorman (Staplehurst)	445	30.5
Boorman (Marden) ..	352	24.1
Standen .. ..	34	2.3
Haggett .. ..	2	.1
Total -	1,456	100.0

Total Carcasses Examined

	Pigs	Sheep	Calves	Cows	Other Bovine	Total
No. examined	508	624	29	17	278	1,456
No. Passed	453	606	29	7	267	1,362
Completely condemned	1	6	-	1	-	8
Partially condemned	54	12	-	9	11	86

Tuberculosis

	Pigs	Sheep	Calves	Cows	Other Bovine	Total
No. Examined	508	624	29	17	278	1,456
Completely condemned	1	-	-	1	-	2
Partially condemned	14	-	-	4	1	19

Other Diseases

	Pigs	Sheep	Calves	Cows	Other Bovine	Total
No. examined	508	624	29	17	278	1,456
Completely condemned	-	6	-	-	-	6
Partially condemned	40	12	-	5	10	67



## MEAT INSPECTION

Approximately the same number of carcasses were examined under meat inspection and it was found the standard of meat maintained was as high as in previous years. In four of the slaughterhouses licenced, the premises are run in conjunction with a retail business, the carcasses being for immediate retail sale from the butchers' shops attached. This is the reason why the standard of meat inspected has been so high, because the butcher concerned only selects animals for slaughter at his premises, which will give satisfactory results in his retail trade. One slaughterhouse was practically unused during the year.

During the year all premises concerned were completely decorated. In December 1956 the Council adopted Byelaws as to the sanitary condition and management of private slaughterhouses, a copy of these Byelaws was sent to each slaughterhouse owner, and the premises have all been brought up to the required standard.

Regarding the hours of slaughtering, I must mention that we have complete co-operation from the slaughterhouse operatives, in so much that as the carcasses normally do not have to be removed from the premises, it has been found possible to carry out one hundred per cent inspection, without the necessity for overtime.

### Pigs for Deadweight Certification

Boorman (Staplehurst)	..	..	..	..	167
Boorman (Marden)	..	..	..	..	74
Ballard	..	..	..	..	19
Total					- 260





SLAUGHTERHOUSES IN DETAIL

	Pigs	Sheep	Calves	Cows	Bovine
Boorman - Staplehurst					
No. examined	220	114	6	-	105
Completely condemned	-	2	-	-	-
Partially condemned	24	5	-	-	2
Boorman - Marden					
No. examined	143	137	2	-	70
Completely condemned	-	3	-	-	-
Partially condemned	15	6	-	-	1
Ballard - Marden					
No. examined	132	373	21	-	97
Completely condemned	1	1	-	-	-
Partially condemned	12	1	-	-	7
Standen - Coxheath					
No. examined	12	-	-	16	6
Completely condemned	-	-	-	1	-
Partially condemned	3	-	-	9	1
Haggett - Hunton					
No. examined	1	-	-	1	-
Completely condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Partially condemned	-	-	-	-	-



## MEAT INSPECTION

### Reasons for Condemnation

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Completely condemned.</u>	<u>Partially condemned</u>
Tuberculosis	2	19
Necrosis	-	-
Abscesses	-	5
Liver Fluke	-	5
Fatty infiltration	-	3
Lack of proper bleeding	1	-
Pleurisy	-	5
Moribund carcass	3	-
Ascaris Lumbricoides	-	4
Fevered condition	-	1
Arthritis	-	1
Nephritis	-	2
Pneumonia	-	15
Pericarditis	-	6
Parasitic infection	-	2
Cirrhosis	-	17
Traumatic hepatitis	-	2
Cysticercus bovis	-	5
Peritonitis	-	1
Dropsy	1	-
Decomposition	1	-

The number of carcasses affected completely or partially with tuberculosis is very slight considering the high proportion of cattle examined during the year. Moribund carcasses completely condemned were all sheep affected by lambing.



## SHOPS ACTS

A total of 438 inspections were made under the Shops Acts during the year. No proceedings were taken against occupants of any shops, as during the inspections it was found there were no contraventions of the Acts' requirements.

No representations were received from any organisations with regard to the administration of the Shops Acts.

The increased number of inspections was mainly due to the inspections of food shops for requirements under the new Food Hygiene Regulations. At the same time as inspecting under these Regulations, requirements under the Shops Acts were also noted.

The register of shops within the district indicates that the number of such premises within the area is 179 plus 60 licensed premises.

All shops were inspected at least twice during the year.





KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Details of samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the RURAL DISTRICT OF MAIDSTONE during the year ended 31st December, 1957.

<u>Article</u>	<u>No.</u>
Analgesic compound Tablets .. .. .	1
Antibiotic-Anaesthetic Throat Lozenges .. .. .	1
Apricot halves in Syrup .. .. .	1
Brandy Flavouring .. .. .	1
Carminc .. .. .	1
Cider .. .. .	2
Cooked Macaroni in cream Sauce with Cheese .. .. .	1
Dessert Cherries in heavy Syrup .. .. .	1
Full cream Milk.. .. .	1
Gin .. .. .	2
Golden Plums in Syrup .. .. .	1
Granulated sugar .. .. .	2
Gravy Salt.. .. .	1
Ground Almonds .. .. .	3
Linseed compound .. .. .	1
Mandarin oranges .. .. .	1
Milk .. .. .	27
Pineapple cubes in Syrup .. .. .	1
Pure Castor Oil.. .. .	1
Soluble Saccharin .. .. .	2
Tonic Yeast .. .. .	1
Vanilla Essence Flavour .. .. .	1
Vita Glucose Tablets .. .. .	1
Water after Softening .. .. .	1
Whole Beetroot .. .. .	1
Total -	<u>57</u>

Summary

Milks .. ..	27
Drugs .. ..	6
Spirits.. ..	2
Other samples	<u>22</u>
	<u>57</u>

All of the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:-

<u>Sample of</u>	<u>Analysis</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
T.T. Channel Islands Milk	8.75% deficient in fat	Follow up samples were all genuine.



<u>ICE CREAM</u>		
<u>Number of samples</u>	<u>Methylene Blue Test Group</u>	<u>Pathogenic organisms cultivated</u>
29	I	0
13	II	0
0	III	0
3	IV	0
<u>Total of 45 samples</u>		

The number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream has risen from 60 to 63 during the year. 45 samples were taken and as the results indicate, all were satisfactory except three.

All unsatisfactory samples were taken from the Medway Wharf Cafe. During the course of complete investigation of the cause for the sale of ice cream of a high methylene blue test group, it was found that the premises from which the sale was made were satisfactory, but the ice cream as it arrived was of a high group. The manufacturers were a Maidstone firm, and the Chief Public Health Inspector of the Borough Council was informed of the results of samples being taken. Conditions at the manufacturers' premises must have improved, as subsequent samples have shown the ice cream is now of a safe standard.



## RODENT CONTROL

### Summary of Inspections and Surveys made by the Rodent Operative

No. of visits made for all purposes..	..	2,810
No. of premises surveyed (including farms)		68
Number of treatments made..	.. ..	981
Estimated number of rats destroyed ..	..	4,174
Estimated number of mice destroyed ..	..	2,436

Once again the number of inspections have increased above those of the previous year.

The estimated figure for rodent destruction can only be a guide, as it is based on the amount of bait taken, compared with the weight required to destroy a rodent.

Apart from the normal duties of your rodent operative under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, the Council do hold 28 annual Contracts with firms (mostly farms) in the district. This gives an annual income of approximately £200.

Yours is the only district in Kent that holds an appreciable number of such contracts, and I am sure the Council realise this is only due to the keenness and efficiency of Mr. Curties, your Rodent Operative.

The annual testing of sewers was completed in March and only one sewer (in Yalding) was found infested. The infestation was rapidly exterminated.

In addition to inspection by your Operative, 433 inspections were made by the Public Health Inspectors in the course of their duties.





## FOOD POISONING

There were five cases of food poisoning notified during the year. Food poisoning is obviously a preventable happening and I am glad to say that the standard of cleanliness and care in places where food is prepared and sold is improving. The Food Hygiene Regulations will be of great value in securing that such standards are universally applied and the District Council has a duty to see that they are universally applied. The other frequent source of contamination of food is in the homes and kitchens and there is much educational work required to emphasize the need for as great care in the kitchen and larder as in the factory or shop.

## Section "F"

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

The incidence of infectious disease in the Maidstone Rural District in 1957 was, on the whole, light. Scarlet Fever notifications numbered 43 and again I have to report that the disease was of a mild type. In fact, scarlet fever appears to have changed its character in the last quarter of a century and is now one of the less troublesome infections. Measles notifications numbered 165. Whooping cough showed an increase, 55 notifications as against 25 last year. 21 cases of pneumonia were reported, but I do not imagine that this figure represents the total number of cases occurring in the district.

Again it is a satisfaction to record that there were no cases of diphtheria during 1957 and this practically complete elimination of diphtheria from the country in 25 years is a proof of the triumphant success of immunisation. It must now be stressed that the safety that has been secured can only be maintained by continued vigilance and the securing of a high percentage of protected persons in the community. Complacency and neglect of the need for immunisation could easily result in the re-appearance of this dread infection.

There were 14 cases of Polio-myelitis notified during the year 1957, to which I have already referred. I am obliged to the County Medical Officer for the following table:-



Poliomyelitis Vaccination, 1957

The following table gives the numbers of children resident in the Maidstone Rural District who received a course of two injections against Poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1957:-

Born	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
	172	162	149	138	68	79	48	32	-	-	-	878

In the following tables, I give the numbers of cases of notifiable disease which have been recorded in 1957. The County Medical Officer has kindly supplied me with figures showing the number of children vaccinated against small-pox during the year, and also the numbers immunised against Diphtheria, classified according to the year of birth. There is also a Table showing the number of children under the age of fifteen years on December 31st 1957, who had completed a course of immunisation against Diphtheria at any time before that date. These tables are in themselves interesting but the point which must not be allowed to get obscured in a fog of figures and age-groups is that for another year, we have the incidence figure for Diphtheria at "Nil". This position has been won and must be held. To do this, it is essential that there should be no neglect of the duty of ensuring that immunisation levels are maintained and protection for all children secured.

The following table gives details of the cases of notifiable diseases, other than Tuberculosis, which appears in a separate Table later in this report, reported in the Maidstone Rural District during 1957.



Disease	Total No. of cases notified	Total No. of deaths
Scarlet Fever	43	nil
Whooping Cough	55	nil
Measles	165	nil
Pneumonia	21	11
Dysentery	3	nil
Erysipelas	1	nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	nil
Acute Polio-myelitis	14	nil
Food Poisoning	5	nil
Chicken pox	1	nil
Meningococcal Infection	1	nil
Acute Encephalitis	1	nil
Pneumococcal Meningitis	1	nil
Paratyphoid Fever	1	nil
TOTALS	313	11





Immunisation against Diphtheria and  
Vaccination against Smallpox, 1957.

The following is a return of (A) the number of children resident in the Maidstone Rural District who were immunised against diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1957:-

(A) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Year of Birth	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
Primary Inoculations.	-	-	4	4	5	4	6	8	14	2	1	8	23	172	34	285
Re-inforcing inoculations.	-	-	3	23	29	33	16	25	49	72	5	-	-	-	-	255

(B) VACCINATION

Year of Birth	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Before 1943	Total
Primary Vaccinations.	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	2	92	138	9	249
Re-Vaccinations	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	20	29

Maidstone Rural District  
Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1957

The following is a return of the number of children under the age 15 years on 31st December, 1957 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1943)

Year of Birth	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster 1943 - 1957)	72	118	95	113	179	231	186	179	188	234	211	202	205	205	34	2,452
1952 or earlier	111	116	84	89	55	3	108	108	80	6	-	-	-	-	-	760



### MALIGNANT DISEASE

The number of deaths from Cancer in the Maidstone Rural District during the past three years is as under:-

1955	..	..	..	65
1956	..	..	..	59
1957	..	..	..	55

### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

(1) Total number of cases notified during the year - nil

(2) Number of cases in which:-

- (a) Vision lost.. .. nil
- (b) Vision impaired .. .. nil
- (c) Treatment continuing at the  
end of the year .. .. nil

### TUBERCULOSIS

The following new cases and deaths have been notified during the year:-

New cases				Deaths			
Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total -		4		Total -		nil	

The Chest Clinic which serves the area for which I am Medical Officer of Health is at Foster Street, Maidstone. This Clinic is equipped for the investigation of chest conditions, with facilities for radiographic examinations and full laboratory aid is also available. The Chest Physician in charge is Dr. D.L. Pugh and close co-operation between the Chest Clinic and the Health Departments of the four authorities has continued during the year.

Dr. Pugh has kindly furnished me with details of the number of contacts of known cases of Tuberculosis which were examined during the year, and the number found to be suffering from Tuberculosis. This investigation of contacts of known cases is one of the most valuable procedures in the detection of cases which might otherwise be missed and provides vital information on the origin and spread of infection. The figures quoted below relate to the investigations made in the area served by the Chest Clinic, which



coincides with the area of the four Authorities,  
Maidstone Borough, Maidstone R.D., Hollingbourn R.D.,  
and Malling R.D.

(a) Number of contacts seen during 1957 of  
newly notified cases of tuberculosis .. .. 364

(b) Number of contacts examined during  
1957 of cases notified prior to 1957 .. .. 568

(c) Number of contacts in (a) found to be  
suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary  
tuberculosis .. .. .. 1

(d) Number of contacts in (b) found to be  
suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary  
tuberculosis .. .. .. 3

#### MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY

Survey Centre:- Teston Reception Centre, Nr. Maidstone.

Date:- 15th July, 1957

Number of volunteers:-

Males	..	..	49
Females	..	..	5
Total	..	..	54

Number recalled for large films:-

Males	..	..	3
Females	..	..	1
Total	..	..	4

% recalled for large films to number of volunteers:-

7.2%

#### RESULTS

Active tuberculosis..	..	..	nil
Inactive tuberculosis			
	Males	..	1
	Females	..	1
	Total	..	2





1 9 5 7

Causes of Deaths

	M.	F.
All Causes.. .. .	198	139
Tuberculosis, respiratory.. .. .	-	-
Tuberculosis, other .. .. .	-	-
Syphilitic disease .. .. .	1	-
Diphtheria.. .. .	-	-
Whooping cough .. .. .	-	-
Meningococcal infections .. .. .	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	-	-
Measles .. .. .	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	7	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .. .. .	10	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast .. .. .	-	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. .. .	-	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	12	14
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	1	1
Diabetes .. .. .	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	29	26
Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	28	14
Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	2	1
Other heart disease .. .. .	13	16
Other circulatory disease.. .. .	8	9
Influenza .. .. .	-	4
Pneumonia .. .. .	6	5
Bronchitis.. .. .	12	3
Other disease of respiratory system.. .. .	2	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .. .. .	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. .. .	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	4	1
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	4	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	-	-
Congenital malformations .. .. .	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined disease	47	27
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	2	1
All other accidents .. .. .	6	2
Suicide .. .. .	2	-
Homicide and operations of war.. .. .	-	-



TABLE V

Birth-Rates, Death-Rates and Analysis of Mortality in the year 1957

	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 population						Rate per 1,000 Live Births.
	Rate per 1,000 population	Still Births	All Causes	Tuberculosis.	Cancer of Lung.	Other Cancer.	
England and Wales	16.1	22.4	11.5	0.107	0.426	1.668	23.0
Hollingbourn R.D.C.	16.66	33.21	9.0	0.06	.24	1.5	36.90
Maidstone R.D.C.	16.29	23.33	9.45	Nil	.4	2.6	13.65
Malling R.D.C.	15.65	29.31	10.88	0.24	.5	1.2	17.76
Maidstone Borough	15.39	0.37	10.34	0.11	.39	1.6	13.27

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

<u>Cause</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 (live &amp; Still) Births.</u>
Maternal Causes	349	0.47

Maidstone R.D.C.

	<u>Puerperal infections.</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Total</u>
Per 1,000 Total Births	Nil	Nil	Nil



# GENERAL SUMMARY

Estimated resident population, 1957..	..	18,870
Area (acres) .. .. .	..	34,487
Density (persons per acre) .. ..	..	.547
Annual Birth-rate per 1,000 population		
Crude .. ..	..	15.52
Corrected .. ..	..	16.29
Annual Death-rate per 1,000 population		
Crude .. ..	..	17.85
Corrected .. ..	..	9.46
Births .. Male - 142    Female - 151    Total		293
Deaths .. Male - 198    Female - 139    Total		337
Excess of deaths over births .. ..	..	44
Tuberculosis death-rate		
Pulmonary .. ..	..	nil
Non-pulmonary .. ..	..	nil
Cancer death-rate per 1,000 population ..	..	2.91







